

A new species of genus *Eresus* from Algeria (Araneida : Eresidae)

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Abstract

A new species of the spider genus *Eresus*, family Eresidae, is described and named *Eresus algericus*. It is the fifth species of that genus described from Algeria.

Keywords: Spiders, Eresidae, *Eresus algericus*, Algeria, North Africa, Taxonomy, new species.

Introduction

During my work in revising the species of the north African eresid genus *Dorceus* C.L. Koch, 1846, a misidentified specimen (as *Dorceus fastuosus*) was examined in the Oxford University Museum of Natural History to find that it belongs to genus *Eresus* (El-Hennawy, 2002).

Among the 18 species and 7 subspecies of genus *Eresus* Walckenaer, 1805, four species were recorded from Algeria (Roewer, 1954; Platnick, 2003): *E. albopictus* Simon, 1873b, *E. cinnaberinus latefasciatus* Simon, 1910, *E. semicanus* Simon, 1908, *E. solitarius* Simon, 1873a. The specimen of UMO is completely different. Also, it is not matching with any of the known descriptions of *Eresus* species. Therefore, it is necessary to describe it as new species.

The description only depends on a single specimen deposited in the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, United Kingdom (UMO), formerly known as Hope Entomological Collection (HECO).

All measurements were taken in millimetres.

Abbreviations used: ALE = anterior lateral eye; AME = anterior median eye; Id = eyes inter-distances; L = length; PLE = posterior lateral eye; PME = posterior median eye; TL = total length; W = width.

***Eresus algericus* new species**
(Figs. 1-4. Table 1)

Type Material: Holotype: Male: Algeria: unknown locality, (UMO) B.510, t.-, Lord Walsingham, 1903.

Diagnosis: Male of this species is recognized by the shape of the terminal element of conductor of the palpal organ.

Etymology: The species name is a noun in apposition taken from the type locality.

Description: Male (Holotype): TL 10.79; Cephalothorax L 6.06; Cephalic part: L 3.90, W 4.15; dark (blackish) reddish brown, covered by black hairs, with two white hair spots just behind the posterior median eyes. Thoracic part: L 2.16, W 3.65; dark (blackish) reddish brown, covered by black hairs, with thick band of white hairs on the outer border. Cephalothorax L : W anteriorly = 1.46; L : W posteriorly = 1.66.

Eyes: posterior medians (PME) largest; three times larger than anterior medians (AME); posterior laterals (PLE) less than double the diameter of the AME; AME and ALE equal. Eye measurements (diameters and interdistances): AME 0.16, ALE 0.16, PME 0.48, PLE 0.26, AM-AM 0.36, AL-AL 2.96, PM-PM 0.72, PL-PL 2.60, AM-AL 1.16, AM-PM 0.16. (Id PME : Id AME = 2.00; Id PLE : Id ALE = 87.84).

Chelicerae: with strong big boss; covered by dense black hairs, especially beside the fang; there is one tooth against the fang. Sternum (L 3.32) and coxae: reddish brown, covered by sparse black hairs. Labium (L 1.60) and maxillae (L 1.60): reddish brown, covered by sparse black hairs, except the distal extremity is white.

Pedipalps: covered by black hairs, except two prolateral parts on patellae and tibiae, covered by white hair; no apophyses. Palpal organ (Figs. 1-3): terminal element of conductor is hook-like shaped.

Legs: covered by black hairs, except the distal parts of patellae, tibiae, and metatarsi which are covered by white hairs, and a few white hairs dorsally on the femora. Metatarsus IV: without calamistrum.

Table 1: Legs measurements (mm)

Leg	I	II	III	IV
Femur	3.40	3.60	3.60	4.60
Patella	1.80	1.68	1.80	2.32
Tibia	2.60	2.20	2.00	3.20
Metatarsus	3.00	2.40	2.52	3.32
Tarsus	1.80	1.48	1.60	1.60
Total length	12.60	11.36	11.52	15.04

Relative length of legs 84 : 76 : 77 : 100. Leg formula IV-I-III-II.

L leg I : L cephalothorax = 2.08.

Spination pattern: ventrally: several on tarsi I-IV, nearly pro- & retro-laterally; few on metatarsi I-IV; some on tibiae (distal ends); none elsewhere.

Abdomen: L 5.98; covered by black hairs; its outer border with white hairs from above except a small area at the front of the abdomen. There are four small oval spots without hair in the anterior half of the abdomen, followed by two transverse lines of white hair; the anterior line is intersected by a small area of black hair in the middle; the posterior line is entire (Fig. 4); ventrally covered by black hairs, except the place of the bipartite cribellum and the creamy white large area above the book-lungs.

Female: Unknown.

Distribution: Only known from Algeria, without definite locality.

Figs. 1-3: *Eresus algericus* n.sp. Right male palp.

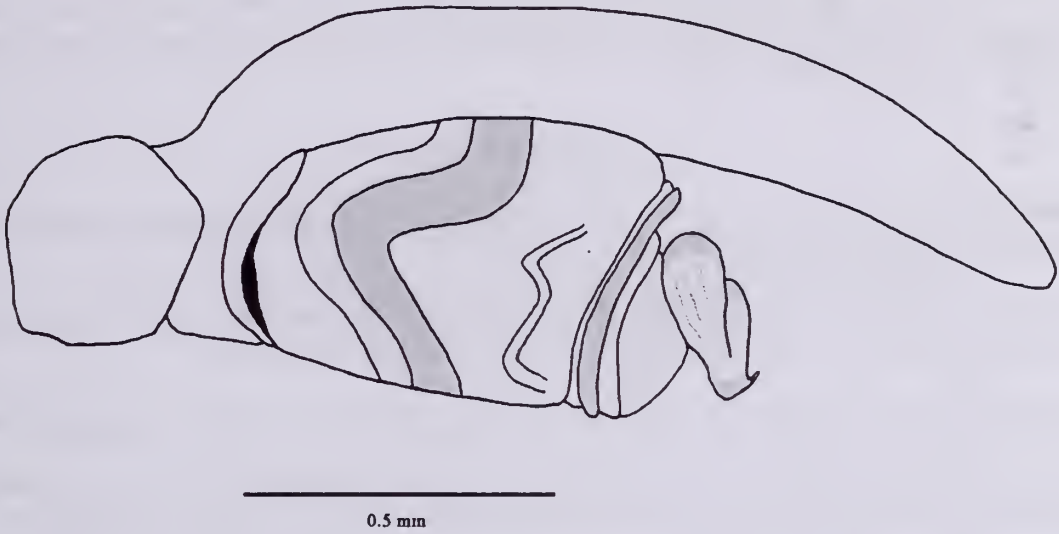


Fig. 1. Retrolateral view.

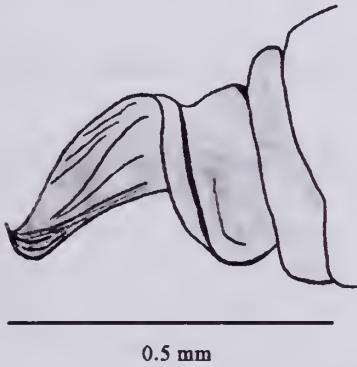


Fig. 2. Prolateral view of tip of conductor. Fig. 3. Ventral view of tip of conductor.

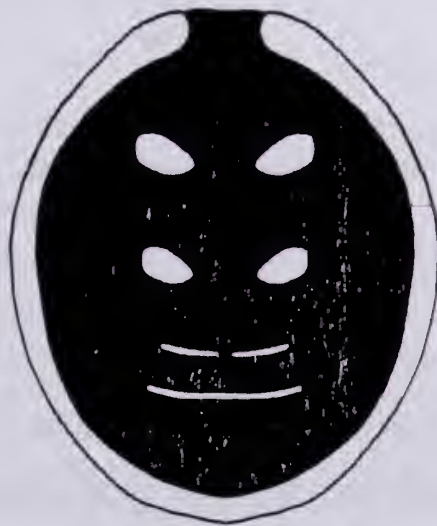


Fig. 4. *Eresus algericus* n.sp. Abdominal pattern.

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